is coordinating with the respective State Governments to remove bottlenecks in the expansion of cement capacities especially with regard to (i) environmental clearances (ii) mining leases and (iii) development of infrastructure like roads etc. The Department is also making efforts to ensure adequate supply of coal to the industry through long term linkages.

Gains from FTA with China

1258. DR. K. MALAISAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) in the Free Trade Agreement between India and China in the recent past what are the major gains that India can claim;

(b) whether it is a fact that China would gain much more than India; and

(c) if so, what are the safeguards to protect the interests of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In pursuance to the recommendation of JSG, a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of India-China RTA was set up. The JTF has finalized its report in its last meeting held in October, 2007. According to the JTF report, India-China RTA would be mutually advantageous. It will promote economic growth, enhance welfare gains and increase bilateral trade through efficient allocation of resources. The bilateral trade liberalization shall bring welfare gains of one billion US dollars to India and 1.5 billion US dollar to China. The report also indicates that the two countries enjoy strong complementarities in their trade in services. In sectors like textile and chemicals. China and India share similar industrial structure, and there is scope for enhancing intra-industry trade.

(c) The JTF report has brought out that some of the sectors may be negatively influenced by trade liberalization. Hence, phasing and extent of tariff liberalization under such RTA should be carefully approached. Certain sensitive products may need to be excluded from tariff liberalization.

Foreign Capital in Commodities Market

1259. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government is proposing to enlarge scope of foreign capital in commodities market;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes; and

(c) did the Government consider the views of different parties, particularly concerned players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government, on a review of existing policy, has approved a composite ceiling i.e. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)+ Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) of 49%